



THE CHOIR OF KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD

A) Lay Clerk

B) Graduate Choral Assistant

For Academic Year 2023-4

BACKGROUND

The Choir of Keble College is one of Oxford's leading mixed-voice ensembles. It is made up of undergraduate and postgraduate members of the University of Oxford and is central to the life of the College's chapel, perhaps the grandest ecclesiastical space in Oxford. A number of our recent choral scholars have gone on to sing with groups such as Genesis Sixteen and the Voces8 Scholars, and are beginning to develop their freelance careers. In recent years the group has performed in France, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Czech Republic and Sweden, as well as widely in the UK, and regularly broadcasts on BBC Radio, most recently in two Choral Evensong on Radio 3 in November and February. Recent highlights include a performance of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* as the closing concert of the 2022 Keble Early Music Festival. The choir has made a number of CD recordings, which have received enthusiastic reviews. The Choir has made a number of CD recordings. Releases in recent years include 'Ave Rex Angelorum', a sequence of music tracing the journey from Christ the King to Epiphany ('In sound and concept, a winner.' *Gramophone*), and a collaboration with the Academy of Ancient Music on the first recording of Francisco Valls' forgotten *Missa Regalis* ('a really confident performance, and a splendid recording' *BBC Record Review*). The latest, 'Resurrexi! Easter in Vienna with Mozart and the Haydn Brothers', conducted by Paul Brough, was released in 2022 ('...so sweetly done that you're immediately tempted to hit the replay button.' *The Arts Desk*).

PURPOSE OF THE ROLES

These one-year appointments, for the academic year 2023-24, provide an opportunity for proficient and experienced postgraduate choral singers to engage with our committed and hard-working student choir, adopting a mentoring role where appropriate. There will be potential for consort singing, and award holders will be encouraged to arrange recitals in association with the Keble College Music Society. The award of either Lay Clerk or Graduate Choral Assistant is according to qualifications and experience and is at the discretion of the Director of Music; it is not necessary for applicants to specify for which role they are applying.

REGULAR AND OBLIGATORY COMMITMENTS

Termly:

- 0th week rehearsals (weeks beginning 01/10/23, 7/01/24, 14/4/24)
 - Wednesday 5.15pm-6.45pm

- Thursday 5.15pm-6.45pm

1st-8th week:

- Sunday 3.30pm rehearsal, 5.30pm Sung Eucharist
- Wednesday 5.00pm rehearsal, 6.00pm Choral Evensong
- Thursday 5.00-6.45pm rehearsal, 9.00pm Choral Compline

MICHAELMAS TERM

- Advent Carol Services Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November
- Christmas Carol Service Friday 1 December

HILARY TERM

- Involvement in the annual Keble Early Music Festival, running 21-24 February

CONDITIONS

Remuneration:

Payable in 3 instalments at the end of each term, as follows:

LAY CLERK: The sum of £2,500 (two thousand, five hundred pounds)

Michaelmas Term: £835; Hilary Term: £835; Trinity Term: £830

GRADUATE CHORAL ASSISTANT: The sum of £1,200 (one thousand, two hundred pounds)

Michaelmas Term: £400; Hilary Term: £400; Trinity Term: £400

In addition, the award holder is entitled each term to:

- Dinner in College Hall (free of charge) on Sundays in Full Term
- 4 x 40-minute singing lessons with the College's singing teacher Luise Horrocks (or equivalent contribution to lessons with preferred teacher.)
- Access to the West Vestry and other music rooms for practice.

Additional events/services (Lay Clerks)

Under normal circumstances extra events and services (College events, concerts, weddings, memorial services, rehearsals etc.) may take place – typically 3 or 4 extra services or events per term, but most will happen at the start or end of each term. These are not compulsory but there is an expectation that the award holders will attend where possible. Equally there is an expectation that the award holder will be given first refusal. The award holder is not expected to book deputies for these events. These extras will be paid at the following rates:

- Services: £30
- Concerts: £60, including up to 3 hour rehearsal on concert day
- Extra standalone rehearsals (not on regular schedule): £20
- Recordings: £50 per 3 hour session

- Live broadcasts/recordings for broadcast: £90, including up to 3 hour rehearsal on broadcast/recording day

Additional events/services (Graduate Choral Assistants)

Additional events and services involving members of the choir may take place on occasion (weddings, memorial services, alumni events etc.) These are not compulsory and do not form part of this agreement. They will attract additional fees by arrangement

Absences:

- A maximum of two absences per term from regular commitments is permissible. In these instances the award holder is responsible for finding and paying a deputy (if possible) from the College's approved deputy list of singers
- In the case of absence requests, the award holder (where possible) must request permission from the Director of Music for absences at least two weeks in advance

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

Requirements:

Applicants should be experienced liturgical singers, confident sight-readers and able to commit fully to the weekly schedule. Some familiarity with quadratic plainsong notation is desired but not essential.

Expectations:

It is expected that the award holder will:

- Maintain sound vocal technique, taking full advantage of the offered singing lessons and masterclasses
- Take full responsibility for being adequately prepared for all services and events, with individual practice as necessary
- Regularly consult the choir schedule
- Maintain impeccable timekeeping
- Adopt a smart appearance for all services and concerts, adhering to required dress code
- be aware of the Choral Assistants' responsibility to set a good example to the undergraduate members and, where appropriate, adopt a mentoring role

APPLICATIONS

To apply please send a CV including the names and contact details of two referees to the Music Administrator, Pippa Thynne, music@keble.ox.ac.uk. Closing date: **12 noon on Monday 25 September 2023**. Auditions will be held on Friday 29 September 2023.